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# SOLANO *County*

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**GREETS YOU**

**GREETS YOU**



# Your Introduction to SOLANO COUNTY

A COUNTY whose history is shot through with the golden lore of a Golden State . . . whose cities fought to become that State's capital in its swashbuckling days . . . a County of breathlessly beautiful scenery and gigantic industrial plants . . . miles of orchards and countless acres of grain . . . great herds of livestock and quay walls of mighty warships . . . prairie lands that became vast natural gas producing fields . . . a County of lakes and bays and sloughs and channels, picturesque valleys and rolling hills . . . that is Solano County, America's Little California.

Gateway to the County is Vallejo, Naval Capital of the West, located within 30 miles of the cities of San Francisco and Oakland and the great Pacific Ocean. Across the channel from Vallejo is the hundred million dollar Mare Island Navy Yard, one of the world's great shipbuilding plants and naval bases.

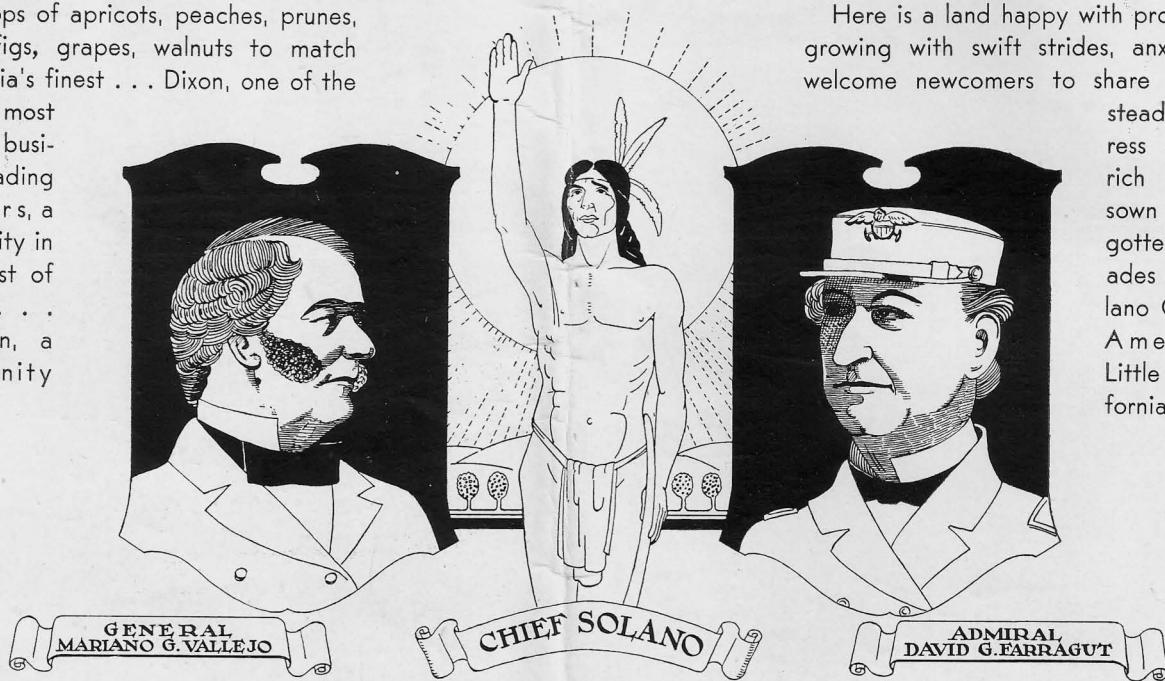
Behind Vallejo, spearhead of the County, sprawls a County of constant prosperity and ever growing greatness . . . here lies Vacaville, "Garden Spot of California," with crops of apricots, peaches, prunes, pears, figs, grapes, walnuts to match California's finest . . . Dixon, one of the State's most thriving business - trading centers, a model city in the midst of plenty . . . Suisun, a community

again in the midst of Nature's most abundant gifts . . . Rio Vista, with new found-wealth in oil and gas . . . Fairfield, the County Seat, possessing matchless riches in fertile earth and spreading industry . . . Benicia, with its priceless history and hopes for a magnificent industrial future. . .

Industries that include shipbuilding, canneries, gigantic dredge manufacturing, boat works, oil plants, packing plants, fisheries, natural gas fields, mills . . . a County with superb fishing and hunting, excellent yachting and other recreational facilities . . . modern schools and picturesque churches . . . fairyland miles of orchards white-blanketed with blossoms in Spring . . . cities with swiftly spreading blocks of beautiful homes and gardens . . . the world's most pleasant, constant climate. . .

From the days of Chief Solano and his tribe, through the era of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, then Admiral David G. Farragut, and down through the years, it has been the golden County of a Golden State . . . with opportunity always bright.

Here is a land happy with prosperity, growing with swift strides, anxious to welcome newcomers to share in that steady progress . . . a rich harvest sown in forgotten decades . . . Solano County, America's Little California.



# Beautiful, Productive SOLANO COUNTY

SOLANO COUNTY has been long recognized as one of California's most productive and progressive counties, a rich area of startling beauty, covering approximately five hundred thousand acres.

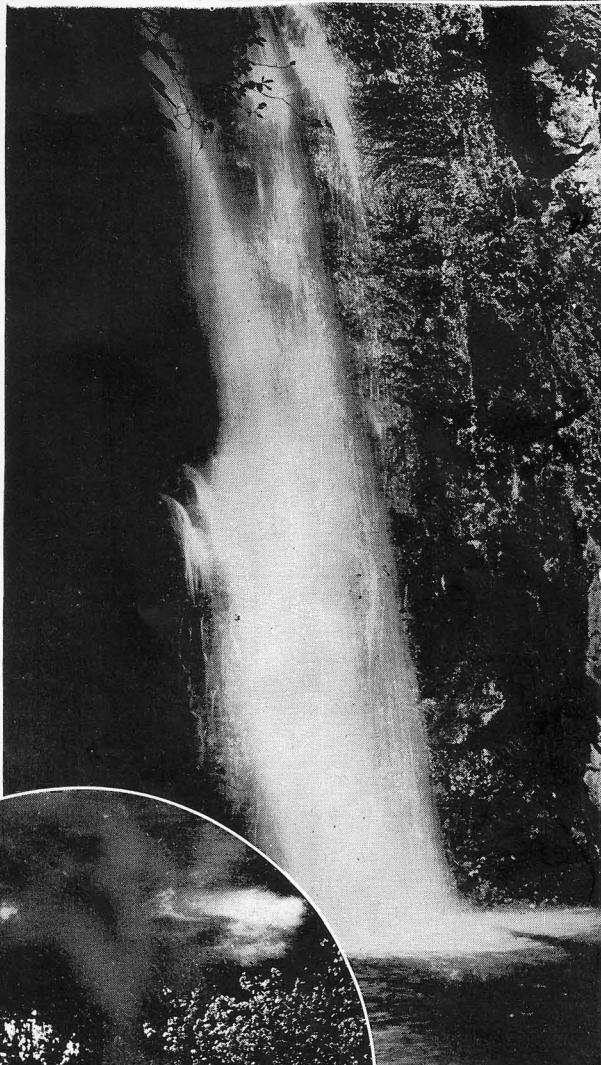
Its biggest city—Vallejo, one-time State capital—is of metropolitan proportions, with a population estimated now at 30,000 and a predicted population of 65,000 or 70,000 within twenty years.

Other chief population centers include Fairfield, the County Seat; Suisun, Vacaville, Dixon, Benicia, also a one-time State capital; and Rio Vista. Each of these cities has its industries and the potentialities, similar to Vallejo, for great industrial expansion.

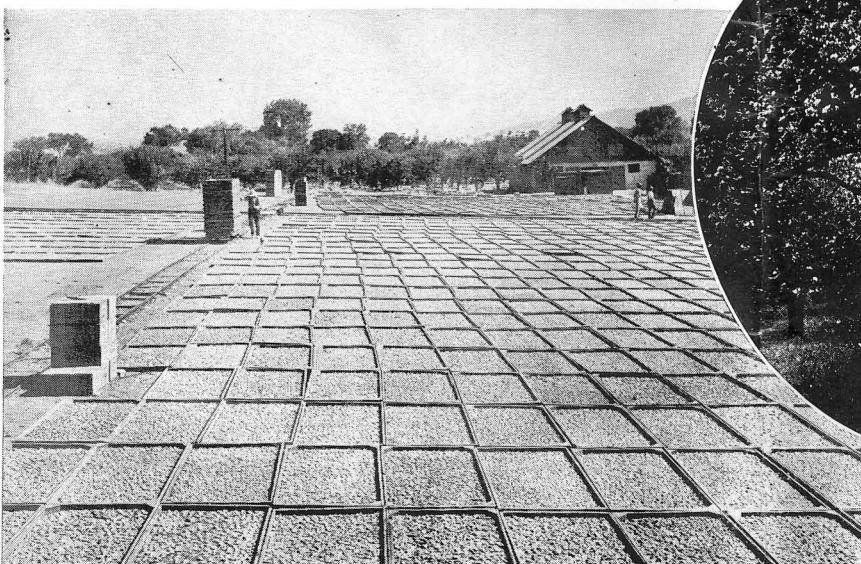
Between these population centers, particularly "Up-County" or in the area including Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista are spread vast acres of beautiful orchards, fields of grain and asparagus, dairy and stock ranches with their herds of livestock.

These agricultural riches, pouring into these cities with their industries, complete the picture of Solano County's wealth in both agriculture and industry . . . a picture that tells a story of fruit, grain, stock raising, dairying, manufacturing, canning, packing, shipping, oil and gas production, and shipbuilding . . . against a background of colorful early California history.

The future holds still greater promise, for Solano County awaits the completion of the Shasta Dam in the year 1945—holding the assurance of more golden harvests, still greater wealth.

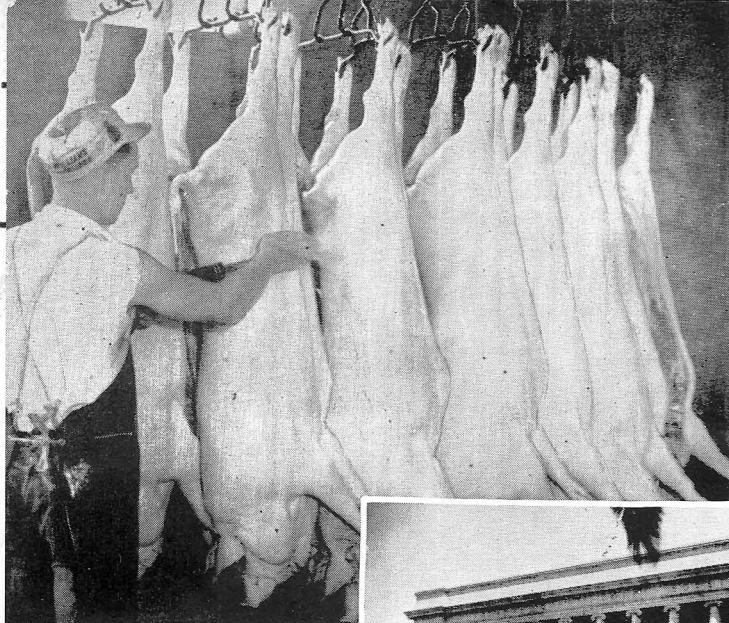


Green Valley  
Waterfall Has  
Startling  
Beauty

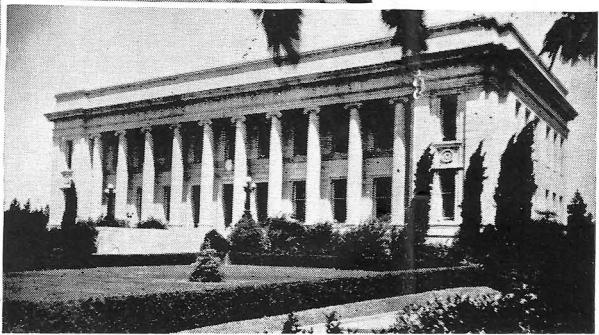


Orchards Like  
This Cover  
Many Miles

Fruit Is Dried For Use  
In World Market



*Meat Packing is a Big Industry*



*Magnificent Is Solano's County Courthouse*

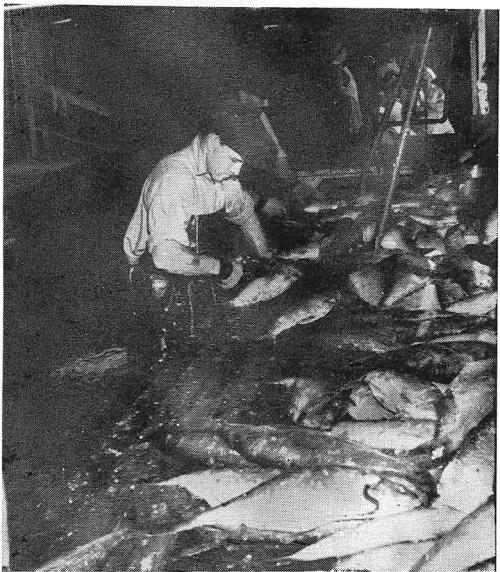
## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES

alfalfa meal manufacturing . . . Suisun's fruit packing plants and canneries, harbor development, boat works, and oil plants . . . Rio Vista's largest asparagus cannery in the world, vast fields of oil and natural gas . . . Vacaville's packing plants . . . and Vallejo, with its Navy Yard, Sperry Mill, and other growing industries.

Great in productivity, with progress constant, the County likewise has a magnificent share of California's history as well as its beauty.

Where Suisun now stands, Indians and White Men fought pitched battles for supremacy of the land, and soon after California had won its Statehood, Vallejo—in 1851—became the capital of the

*Benicia Fisheries Are Among Best*



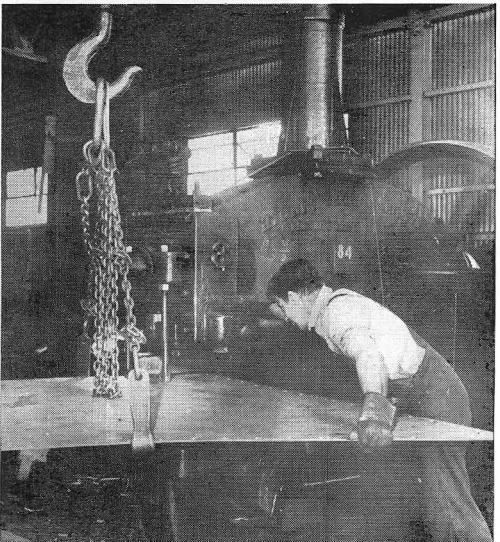
## A COUNTY OF RESOURCES

SITUATED only 185 miles from the dam and with the natural channel of the Sacramento river, Solano County will benefit greatly from the water supply of the dam. Delta lands, by the elimination of salinity in the lower reaches of the Sacramento, will become fertile and productive, and the floor of the valley will be changed from dry farming and pasturage to irrigated farming and intensive culture.

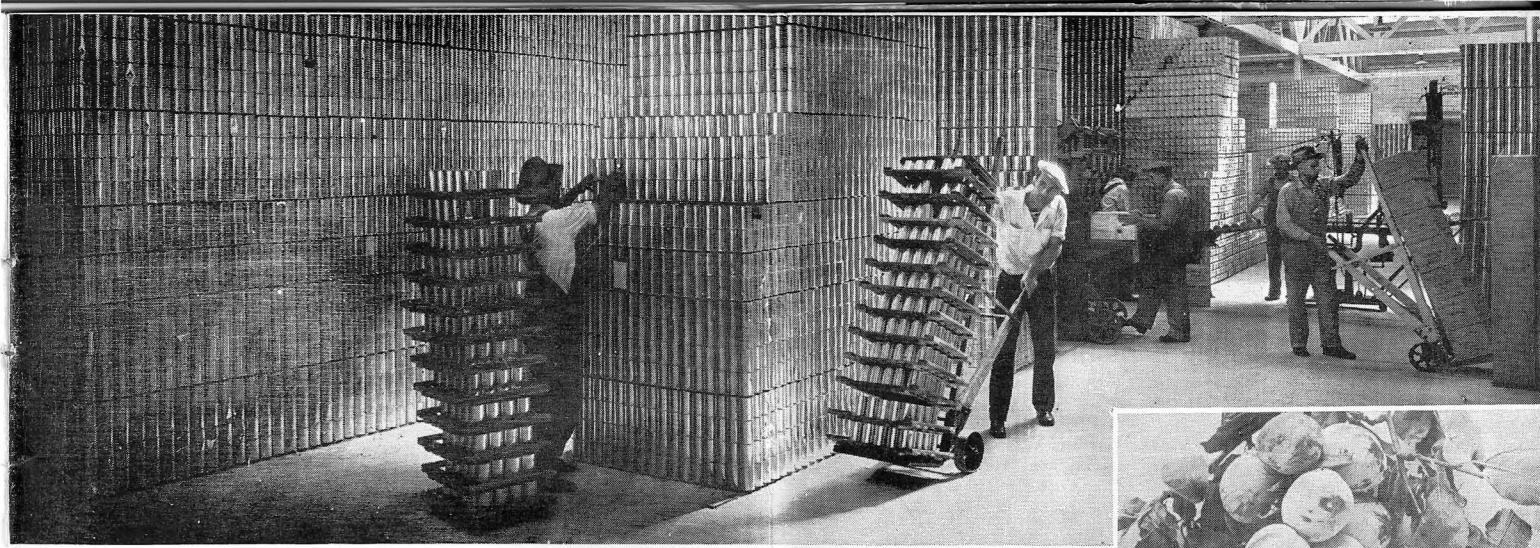
Meanwhile, deciduous fruit production leads the way as major crop of the County, with 15,000 acres of asparagus next in importance. Major fruit of the County is the prune crop, and these are dried and marketed as dried prunes. Apricots are second, pears third, followed by plums, peaches, grapes, and almonds. There are 55,000 acres of barley, 18,000 acres of wheat, another 10,000 acres in milo and oats.

Orchards and farms are thickest in the Suisun and Vaca Valleys . . . dairy, grain, and stock ranches in the Dixon area . . . asparagus fields in the Rio Vista territory.

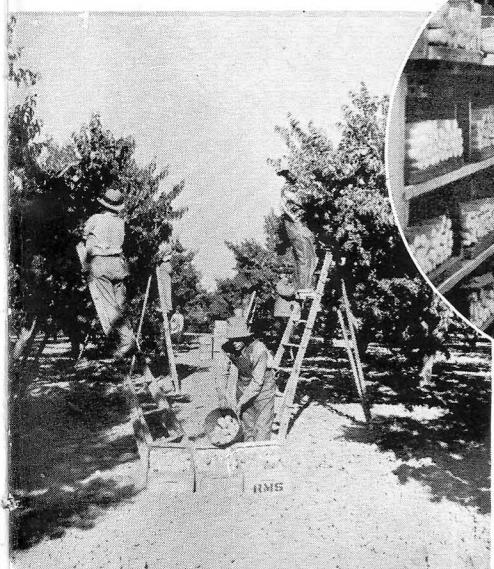
The County's greatest single industry, of course, is Mare Island Navy Yard, but there are other major industries . . . Benicia's cannery and fishery, vast waterfrontage for industrial development, home of the million dollar Yuba dredges, biggest in the world . . . Dixon's meat packing and



*Industry Thrives at Yuba Company Dredge Plant*



*Rio Vista's Asparagus Cannery Is Tremendous*

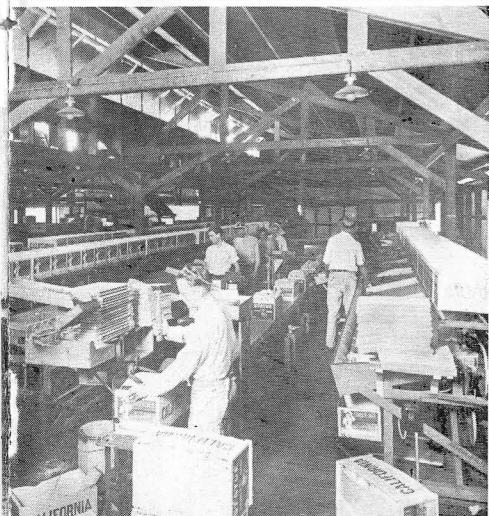


*Fruit Pickers Busy In Fairfield Area*



*Vacaville Plums Are Among America's Best*

*Scores of Women Sort Asparagus, Saving Only the Best*



*Famous is Dixon's Biggest Packing Plant*

## A COUNTY OF OPPORTUNITY

State, lost it to Sacramento, and then won it back again when a flood drove the Legislature back to Vallejo. Later Benicia became the Capital, until finally it was moved to Sacramento.

Similarly, the beauty of the County is striking. One of the State's most picturesque drives is through Vaca Valley in Spring, when miles of orchards are in bloom. There is the lush Green Valley with its waterfall, and Laguna and Pleasants Valleys, two off-shoots of Vaca Valley which match its beauty.

But this history and this beauty is only background against which is laid the truly great productivity of the County. As much as anything else, it is that productivity, so varied, of which Solanoans are most proud. They love the history of their County's past and the beauty of their land, but it is the present—and the promise of a greater future—that gives them their greatest joy.

And that joy, Solano County ever will desire to share with those who wish to come to this land and share such joy.

# VALLEJO - Naval Capital of the West

A CITY fringed by one of the greatest orchard sections in America . . . one of the greatest grain-producing areas in the country . . . one of the greatest livestock producing areas and vineyard areas in California . . . one of the greatest naval shipbuilding plants in the world . . . this is Vallejo, Naval Capital of the West.

One of the fastest growing metropolitan cities in California, with a population of 30,000 that promises to become 65,000 or 70,000 in twenty years, Vallejo is proud of its hundred million dollar Mare Island Navy Yard, its beautiful homes, its swift and steady progress.

An hour's driving distance away are some of the most

treasured attractions in the West . . . Jack London's "Valley of the Moon," the Petrified Forest, the scenic "Old World" Napa Valley, Calistoga's geysers, San Francisco's bridges and the bay-fringing cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Sausalito, San Rafael . . . just as

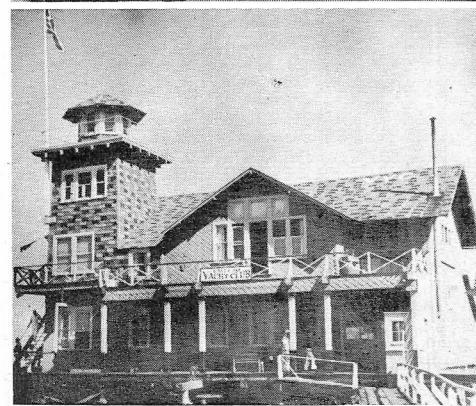
easily available are the storied gold fields of Forty-Niner days . . . or the breathless beauties of Yosemite . . . mountains, or seashore, history, beauty, or pleasure against a background of constant progress.

For Vallejo is proud of its progress. Signs are found in figures . . . construction permits totaled \$147,840 in 1921, and \$800,000 in the first five months of 1939; water taps in 1920 totaled 3,580, with 6,611 last year . . . assessed valuation was \$9,559,680 in 1922, today is \$11,238,875 . . . postal receipts in 1922 were \$66,585, last year were \$143,675 . . . school registration has increased 1,386 in 18 years.

Although more than a thousand new homes have been constructed in the past few years, rapid growth of Vallejo necessitates even more residential construction . . . and with eleven schools, three more new school buildings are in progress . . . several of the city's twelve churches plan new improvements . . . a shopping district of 16 blocks steadily is spreading, with a total of 701 business firms pointing toward new, record-breaking figures before 1940.

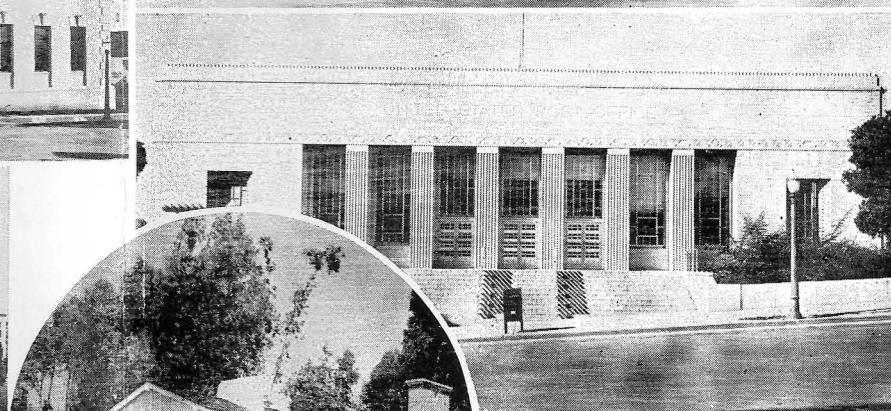
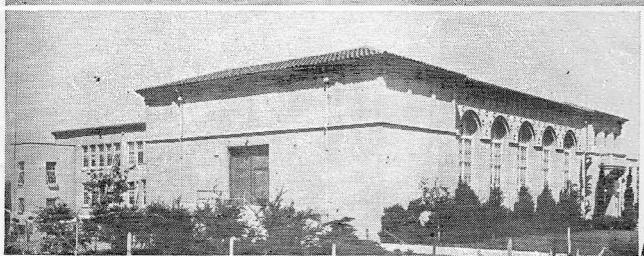
Here are available sites for factories along an entire channel big enough and deep enough for some of Uncle Sam's mightiest warships, plus rail transportation and other facilities . . . here is the natural outlet for count-

*A View of Vallejo from Mare Island, Channel in Foreground*



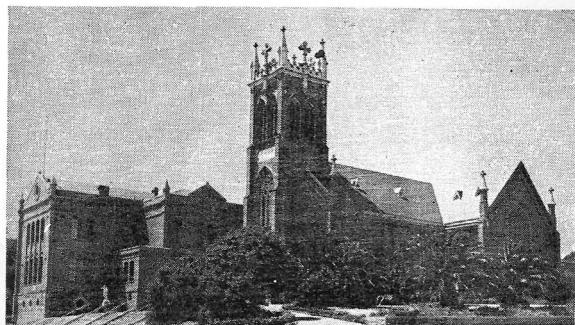
Carquinez Bridge Links Two Counties, above  
Vallejo Yacht Club Affords Recreation, below





*Impressive Is Vallejo's City Hall, above  
Schools Match Best in All California, below*

*Picturesque Churches Are Well-Attended*



*Above, Vallejo General Hospital  
Is Modern, Complete  
Below, the Post Office Is Heart  
of Civic Center*

*Beautiful  
New Vallejo  
Homes Are  
Being Com-  
pleted Daily*

## VALLEJO -- BUILDING TO THE FUTURE

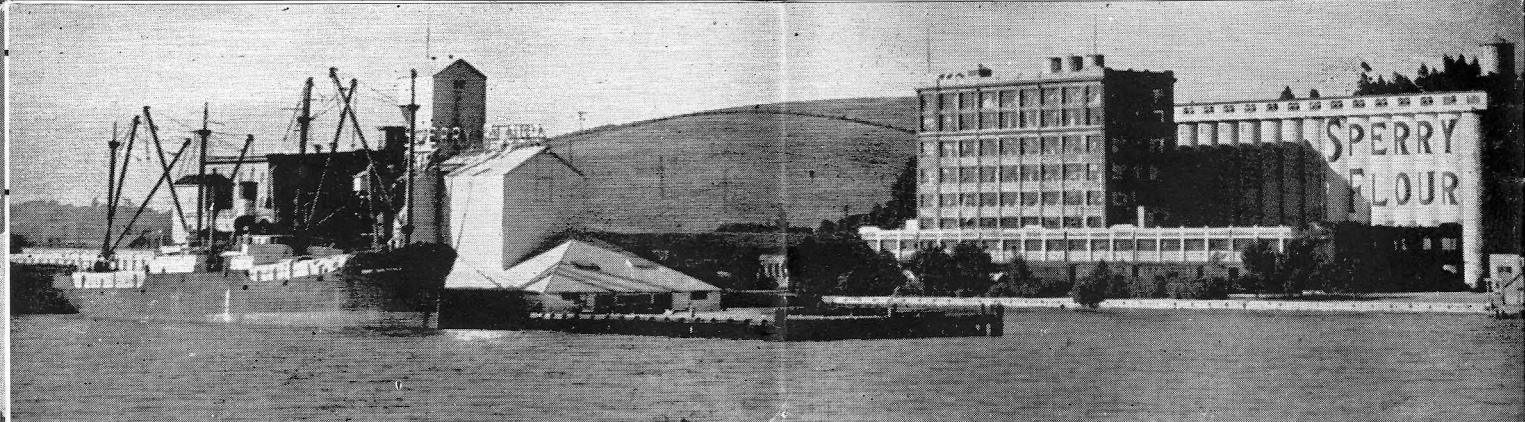
less miles of fertile valleys with their produce . . . an ideal convention city . . . a mecca for sportsmen, who find its bass fishing excellent and its back country a sportsman's paradise for hunting and fishing . . . recreational facilities . . . athletic fields . . . a yacht harbor . . .

A city with a low tax rate of \$2.10 . . . its own municipal water system . . . where Business and Labor relations are a model for the nation, Vallejo has progressed amazingly with Mare Island Navy Yard. At this \$100,000,000 plant, with its more than 6,000 home-owning Vallejoans as workmen, \$32,000,000 in improvement, including ship construction, is under way. Officers and service men aboard ships and stationed at the Yard show a daily average of 5,000 and over. Sperry Mill is another huge industry.

Of course the city is proud of its historical background as one of California's earliest capitals, and likewise is proud of the colorful legend of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, one of the State's most important figures in early California history, the man after whom Vallejo

*Playgrounds Are  
Constantly  
Growing*





*Sperry Mill Is One of City's Big Industries*

*Another of City's Twelve Churches*

## VALLEJO - ON DEEP WATER

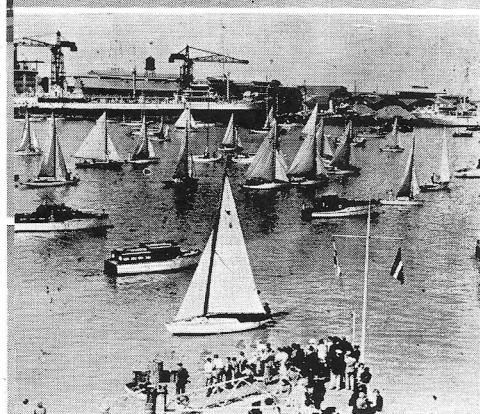
was named. Many national figures in the arts, cinema, Navy and Army, the professions, and sports over many decades have been Vallejo-born, nor did any of them ever lose their love for their home city.

But fundamentally, Vallejoans are proudest of their city's steady progress, the constancy of that progress, for Vallejo was one of the very few cities in America that did not suffer during the Depression. And one of the chief reasons for that, of course, both during the Depression and the years that followed, has been the sturdy prosperity of its back-country, and the sound growth of Mare Island Navy Yard, with one of the biggest weekly payrolls of any government plant in America.

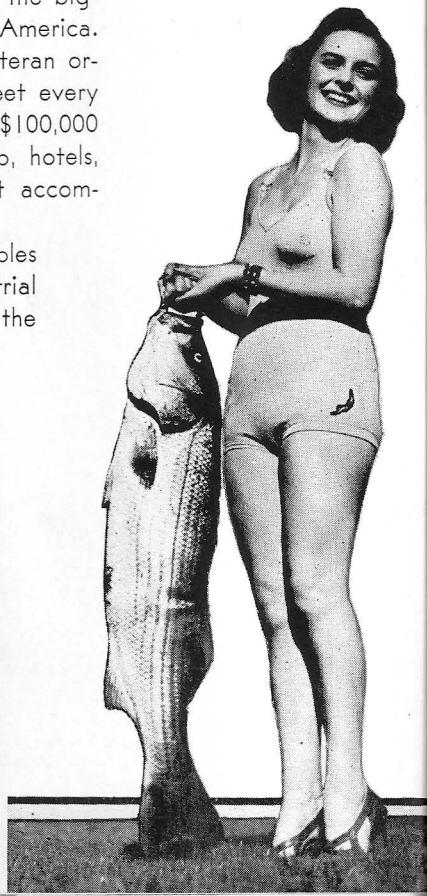
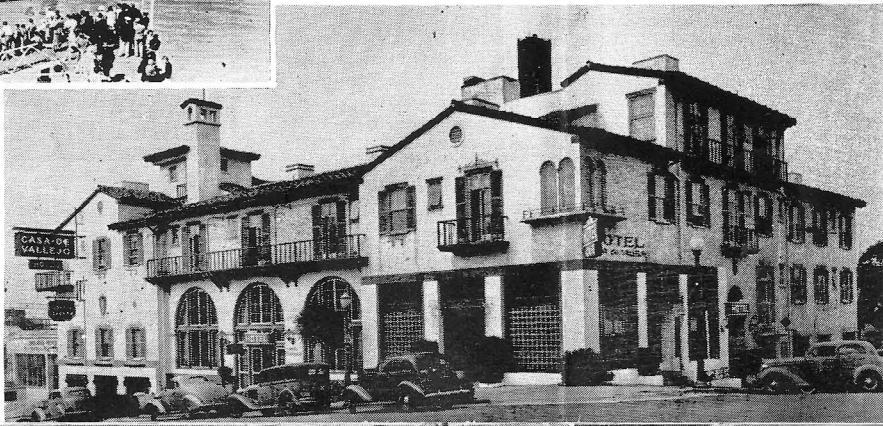
Vallejo has every lodge, service club, and veteran organization known in America . . . hotels to meet every taste . . . swank cafes and night clubs . . . the \$100,000 Veterans' Memorial Hall, Vallejo Women's Club, hotels, and numerous lodge buildings provide perfect accommodations for convention meetings . . .

Here are landscapes to match the Bay of Naples and the awe-inspiring sights of fabulous industrial activity . . . here is the city with everything, the White Spot of America—Vallejo.

*Below, Leading Hotel;  
Right, Record Bass Catch*



*Excellent Yachting Facilities Prevail*



# MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD -- at Vallejo

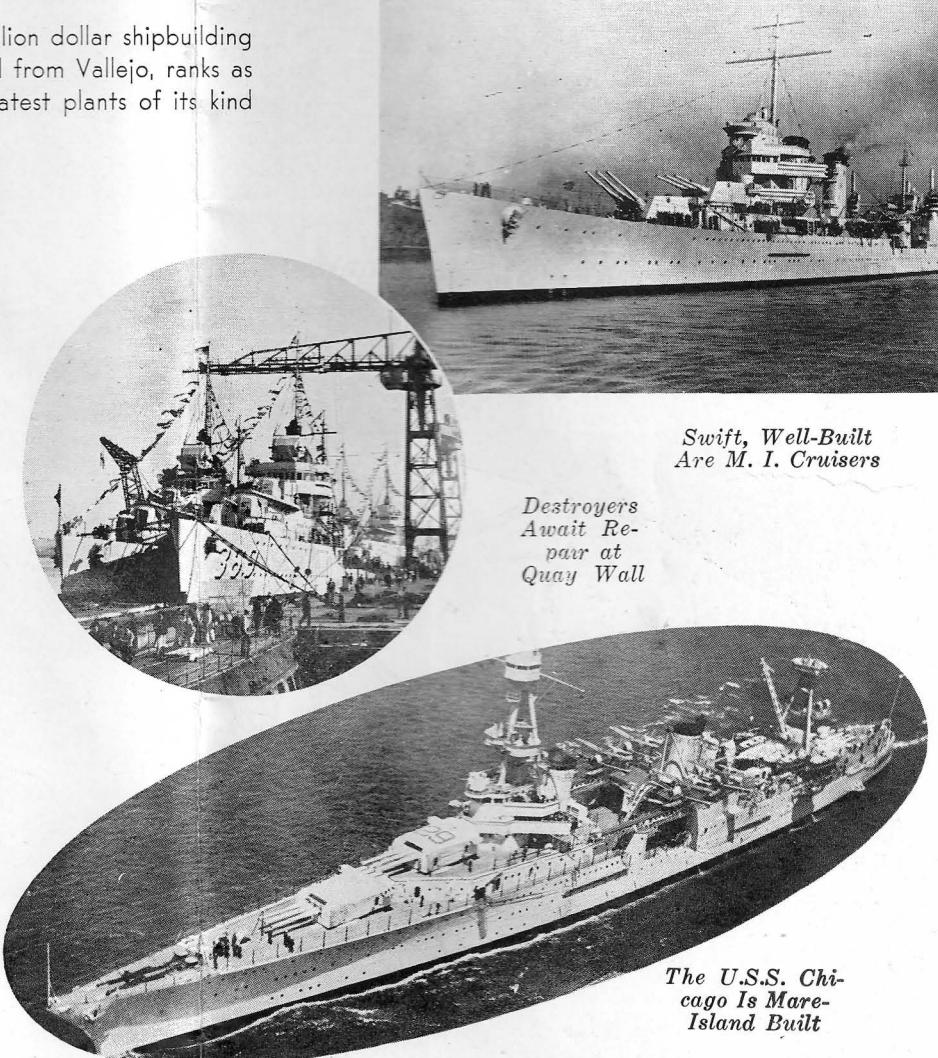
MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD, hundred million dollar shipbuilding plant and naval base across the channel from Vallejo, ranks as the biggest in the West and one of the greatest plants of its kind in the world.

Officially established as a Navy Yard in September, 1854, with Captain, later Admiral David G. Farragut in command, Mare Island today employs more than 6,000 men, in addition to approximately 2,000 PWA and WPA workers. Under construction, including work on the submarine tender *Fulton* and the submarine *Tuna*, in addition to several other smaller craft, are improvements totaling thirty-two million dollars.

Since 1854, Mare Island has constructed every type of warcraft ever used in the Navy, a total of eighty-seven ships. These have included the battleship U. S. S. *California*, flagship of the Pacific fleet; the cruisers U. S. S. *Chicago* and U. S. S. *San Francisco*, many destroyers . . . such as the *Smith*, *Preston*, and *Henley*—and submarines such as the *Pompano*, *Sturgeon*, and *Swordfish*.

The list is long—and impressive.

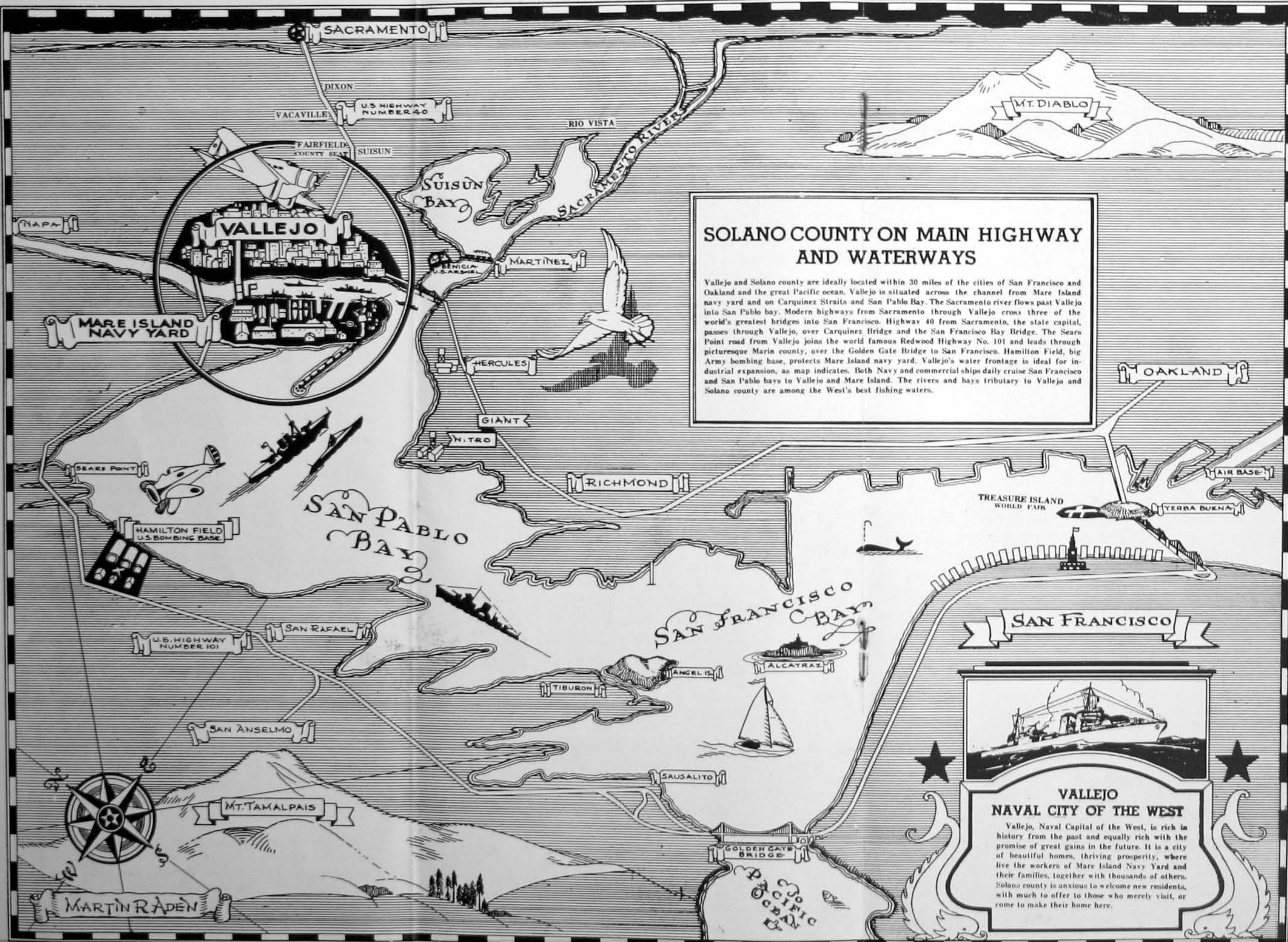
*General View of U. S.  
Mare Island Navy Yard*



*Swift, Well-Built  
Are M. I. Cruisers*

*Destroyers  
Await Re-  
pair at  
Quay Wall*

*The U.S.S. Chi-  
cago Is Mare-  
Island Built*



## Interesting Facts About SOLANO COUNTY

Sutter's secret of gold in California did not leak out in San Francisco, as the world believes . . . but in Von Pheister's hostelry in Benicia, months before the actual Gold Rush.

\* \* \*

In Solano County's seven cities, there are a total of 1,188 retail outlets . . . more than one merchant for every one of Solano County's 911 square miles. Estimated population of the County is 42,100.

\* \* \*

Proud is Solano County of its twenty-six schools, among the best in the State, and its thirty-one churches, some of them among the most picturesque and historic in California.

\* \* \*

First cherry crop to go East each year is from Solano County's Vaca Valley, also one of the greatest plum producing areas in the nation.

\* \* \*

One of the State's historic early day figures and founder of Vallejo, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, gave away immense riches to make California great, died poor.

\* \* \*

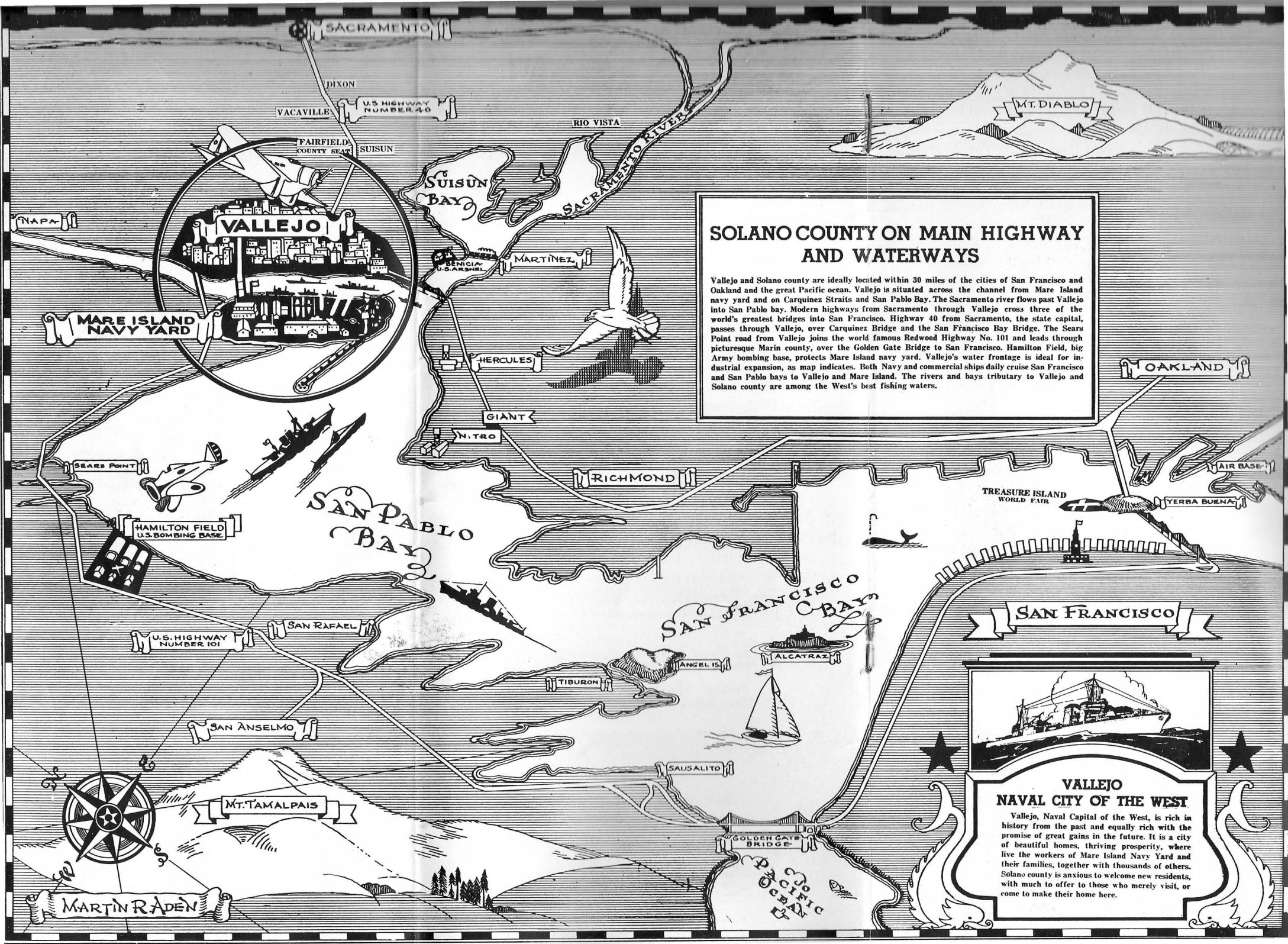
Two of the West's most strategic government bases—Mare Island Navy Yard and the Benicia Army Arsenal—are only seven miles apart. First commandant of Mare Island was Admiral David Farragut, later one of the nation's great naval heroes. Similarly, both General Grant and General Sherman, in their early Army days, were stationed at the Benicia Arsenal.

\* \* \*

Solano County tonnage figures for fruit in 1939 in terms of fresh tons, include these: sugar beets, 100,000 tons; asparagus, 100,000 tons; apricots, 18,000 tons; prunes, 10,000 tons; wine grapes, 5,000 tons; plums, 1,000 tons; cherries, 800 tons.

\* \* \*

Tax rate for Solano County during the fiscal year: The County's tax rate will be low for the fiscal year 1939-1940—95 cents per \$100 valuation inside incorporated cities, \$1.11 outside, a 4-cent slash from the previous year.



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# - MARE ISLAND -

## Seat of Naval Activity

STILL a world shipbuilding record is the keel laying and launching of the destroyer U. S. S. Ward in seventeen days, during the first World War, when Mare Island established many almost unbelievable shipbuilding records. In addition to construction work, the Yard serves as a repair base for the Pacific fleet . . . is the principal supply base for the battle fleet, the Asiatic stations, and the naval bases out in the Pacific.

Typical of Mare Island progress today are current improvements . . . a third drydock costing \$3,500,000; a new Foundry costing \$1,300,000; a new Machine shop costing \$1,800,000. Assured for the next decade is the heaviest workload in the Yard's history.

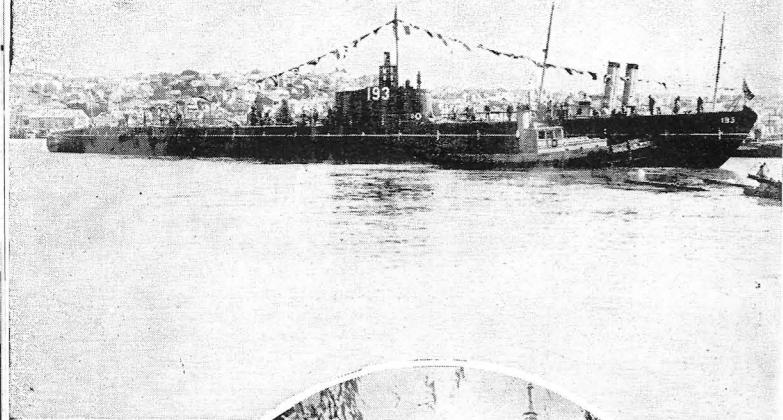
Assured for at least the next ten years is construction work, and improvements, totaling not merely thousands of dollars, but millions of dollars.

Assured is construction of a new submarine every year for at least a decade, together with construction of probably five auxiliary vessels.

Similarly assured is repair work on dozens and dozens of ships in the Pacific Fleet—all of which means the heaviest workload in the history of this hundred million dollar plant.

Also on the Yard, aside from many shops, administration buildings and officers' quarters are separate reservations including a gigantic ammunition depot, one of the largest hospitals in the West, a vast Marine barracks. Mare Island is the largest single industrial establishment west of the Mississippi. Present commandant is Rear Admiral David Worth Bagley, U. S. N.

*Naval Hospital Covers a Tremendous Area*

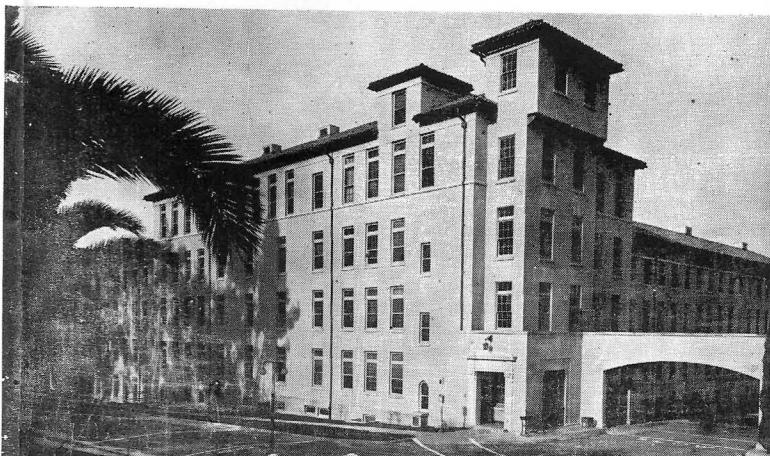


Giant  
Submarine  
Is Launched



St. Peter's  
Chapel on  
Mare Island

Historic Are the Marine  
Barracks



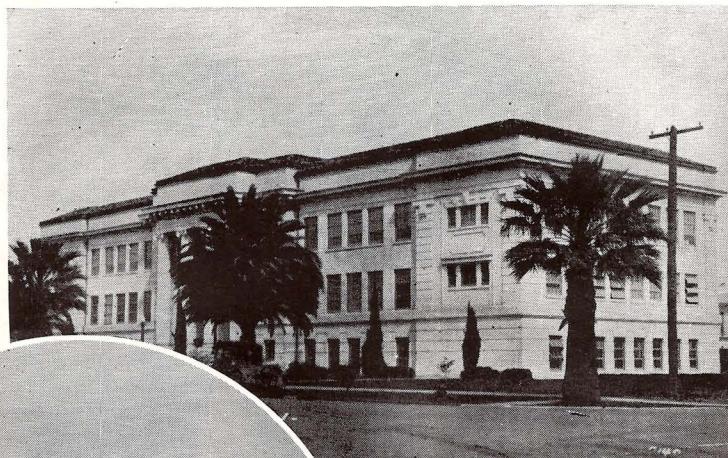
# FAIRFIELD -- County Seat of Solano

OLDEST County seat in California, a beautiful little city in the midst of fertile orchards, with thriving industries and the potentialities to support more is Fairfield—heart of "Little California."

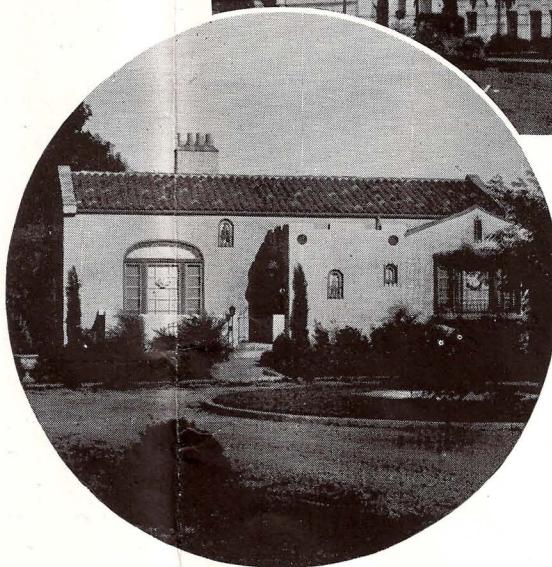
On the main transcontinental highway No. 40, running from Oakland and San Francisco to Salt Lake City and the East, Fairfield also has local and transcontinental railway service, and bus lines.

Here, in a civic center of striking beauty, is the County Court House where Supervisors George C. Demmon, chairman of the Board; Dan Foley, J. B. Danielson, Charles Brown, and Carl Schmeiser direct the destinies of the County. In the Fairfield area is the County hospital, one of the most modern in the State, and the County Library, with 96,522 books on its shelves and branch libraries throughout the County.

With a population of more than 2,000, Fairfield has an assessed valuation of \$790,000, a tax rate of \$2.05, its own \$77,000 water system and well-illuminated paved streets. Its cultural life is represented by the Fairfield Grammar School, the beautiful Armijo Union



*Armijo High School  
Serves Fairfield Area*



*Beautiful  
Homes  
Typify  
the City*

*View of Fairfield,  
Showing Back Country*



High School, and the Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church. Two banks contain its wealth, begot mainly from the growing of deciduous fruits and agriculture, and its two industries, the California Packing Company and the Pacific Trucking Service. People in this trade area spend approximately \$2,000,000 annually for retail needs.

Surrounding it are vast acres of orchards . . . cherry, apricot, peach, and walnut . . . luscious vineyards, sweeping stretches of grain fields, all feeding the wealth of the thriving city.

Vastly illuminating are figures on the agricultural paradise of which Fairfield is the center. For here is the heart of a County with a total of 1,479

# - FAIRFIELD -

## *Marches Forward*

farms covering 431,401 acres and valued at \$45,107,090.

Fruit tops the list with a total of 584 farms, covering 57,145 acres, with the value set at \$16,675,882. Grain is next, with 163 farms, covering 109,257 acres, with the value \$8,764,598. There are 134 stock ranches, large and small, covering 155,893 acres and valued at \$7,849,240. There are 126 dairy farms, spread over 44,822 acres, with a value of \$3,563,970, and another 68 animal-specialty farms, covering 12,479 acres and valued at \$1,557,440. Fifty-eight truck farms cover 14,679 acres, with a \$2,046,175 value. Other types of farms include crop specialty and poultry.

Here, over an area once ruled by Chief Solano, are agricultural riches to match California's greatest—and Fairfield, as lovely as its name, is the heart of it all.

In addition to the city's many lodges, organizations include the Home Owned Business Association; the County Farm Bureau, a strong organization of the agriculturists of the County, connected with the University of California extension service; Boy Scouts; the Fairfield Firemen's Club, the Sunshine Club of Fairfield, and the Suisun-Fairfield Rod and Gun Club, which has a membership of more than 200 sportsmen.

A city of loveliness in the midst of beauty, it is one of Solano County's most popular cities, combining its agricultural advantages with industry to remain a thriving, progressive community.



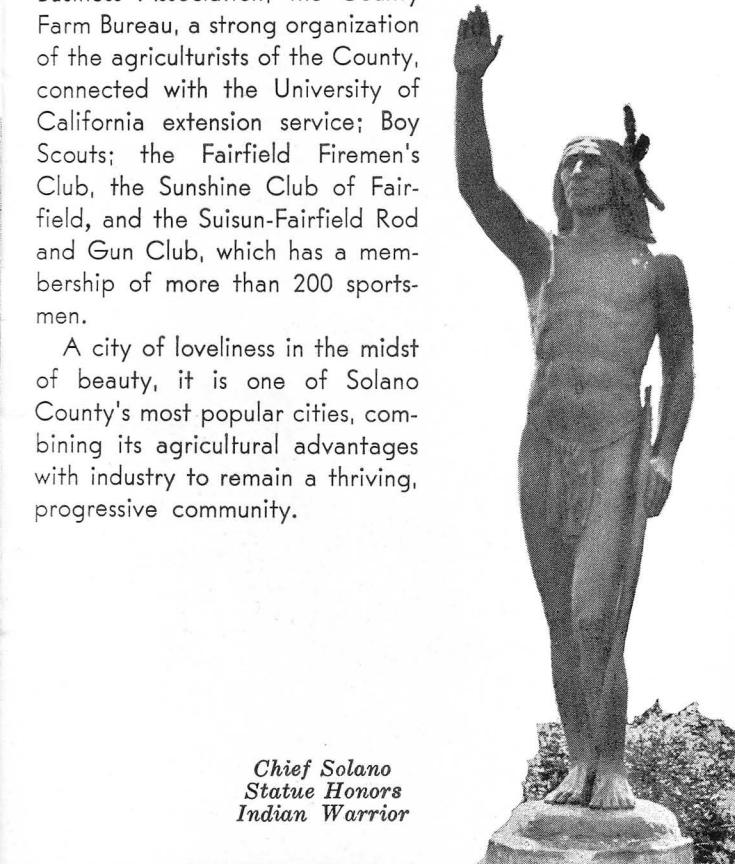
*Another View of Courthouse, above, Fronted by Memorial Statue, right*



*County Hospital and, below County Library*



*Chief Solano Statue Honors Indian Warrior*





Vacaville Street Scene



One of City's Churches

## VACAVILLE--In the Productive Vaca Valley

**I**N THE heart of the lovely Vaca Valley, "Garden Spot of California," is Vacaville—famous as a fruit center and rich in historical lore.

Situated 58 miles from San Francisco and 37 miles from Sacramento, on the Lincoln Highway, no portion of California is better known. Vacaville's back country is famous for its variety of products, its rich soil which has a reputation for growing anything, and the remarkable climate.

Adjoining Vaca Valley are the equally fertile Lagoon and Pleasants Valley, all three comprising some of the choicest fruit lands in the State. Vacaville is one of the largest plum-growing sections in the United States, and each year leads in shipping away the first crop of cherries to eastern markets. Other principle crops are apricots, peaches, prunes, pears, figs, grapes, and walnuts. The Frank Buck packing plant is located in Vacaville.

Vacaville was officially founded in 1850, but about 1841 came the Mexican families of Baca, Pena, and Armijo, securing grants from the Mexican government. Their large ranches encompassed most of the valley,

New Grammar School

which the American settlers, when they came, named Vaca Valley after the Bacas, translating the soft Mexican "B" to a "V."

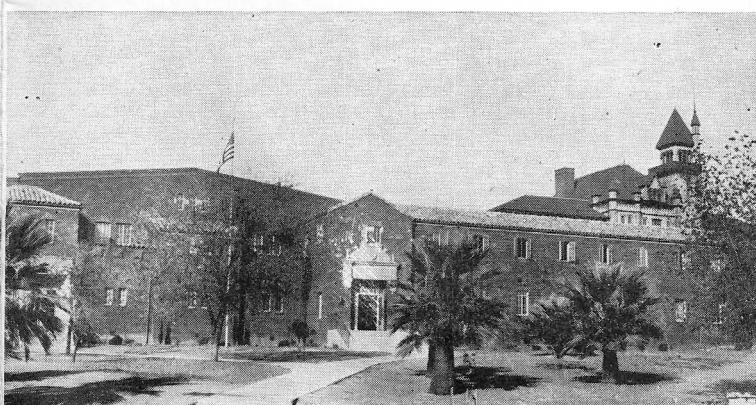
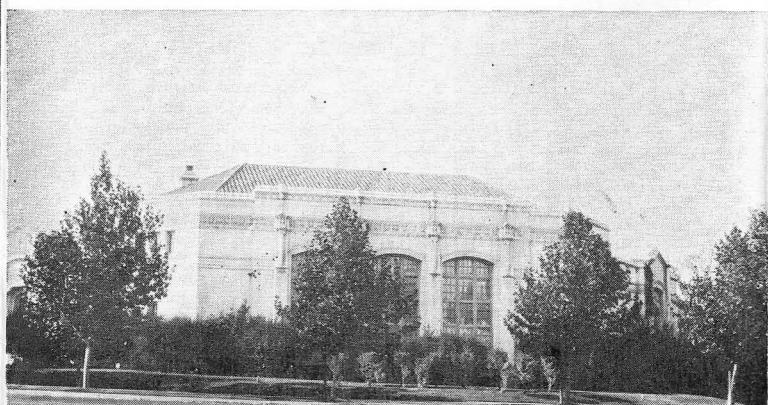
The ranchos of these Mexican dons were well stocked with cattle, and the American settlers who soon followed also engaged in stock-raising.

As the years rolled on, however, the Dixon area became the chief stock and dairy center of the County, and the once flourishing ranchos of Vaca Valley were planted in plums, apricots, peaches, prunes, pears, figs—or became vineyards.

Not in its entire history has Vacaville ever been known to have a crop failure. Never are there any extremes in weather, never a disastrous flood. Fortunate, indeed, are those who live off this rich, unfailing soil.

In Spring, Vaca, Lagoon, and Pleasants Valleys become the mecca for thousands of visitors, with virtual miles of orchards in bloom, sending their fragrance across the countryside. From the San Francisco Bay Region and from points as far north, these visitors come to Vacaville for one of California's most scenic Spring drives.

Vacaville High School





*Dixon High School*



*Business District*

## **- DIXON -**

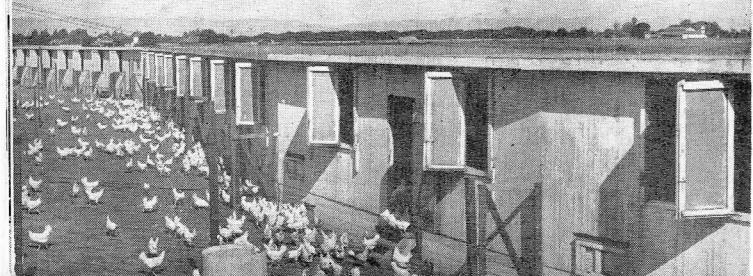
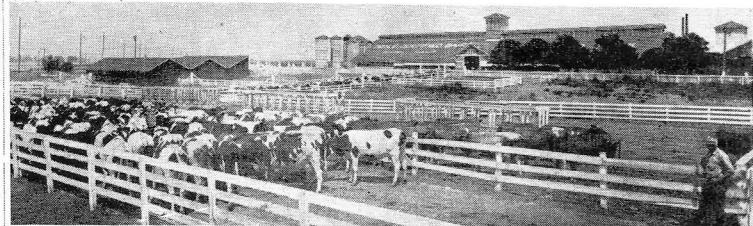
**D**IXON, in the northeastern angle of the productive County of Solano, is the "food basket" area of the lower Sacramento Valley.

Products of the Dixon area include wheat and barley, representing an income of \$500,000 annually; sheep and other livestock, representing another \$500,000, and alfalfa and dairying, representing a third \$500,000.

A new industry has been added to this three-phase agricultural program—sugar beets. In northern Solano County, there already are 3,000 acres in sugar beets.

There is also considerable business in poultry and eggs. The Dawson Poultry Yards, located in this area, are the largest egg producers in northern California, with 10,000 hens.

### *Dixon Is a Rich Stock, Dairy, and Poultry Area*



Lambs are the principal individual farm industry of the district. Thoroughbred stock from the Dixon area take more prizes than similar stock from all parts of the West. Livestock ranches ship their meat to Dixon, where the Bruce Mace Meat Company has a large abattoir.

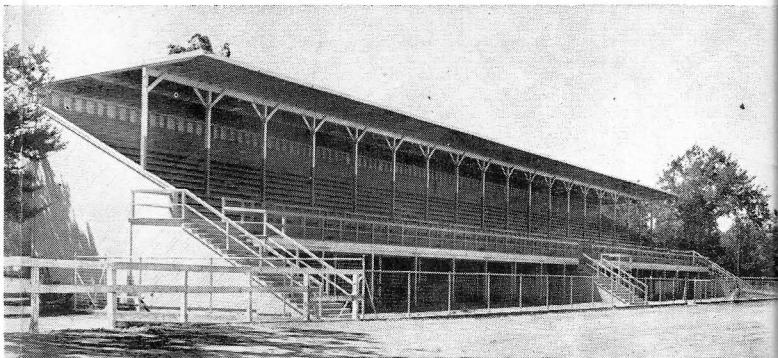
Dixon itself is a city with 75 modern blocks of paved thoroughfares, its own 25-acre city park, municipal swimming pool, huge grammar school, new \$200,000 high school . . . a city whose banks carry deposits totaling approximately two and a half million dollars. Its population is approximately 3,000 over a greater metropolitan area.

It is a home city, a large percentage of its citizens owning their own homes. There is little transient population. Its streets are lined with beautiful trees, and spacious lawns and gardens add to the attractiveness of its roomy residential blocks.

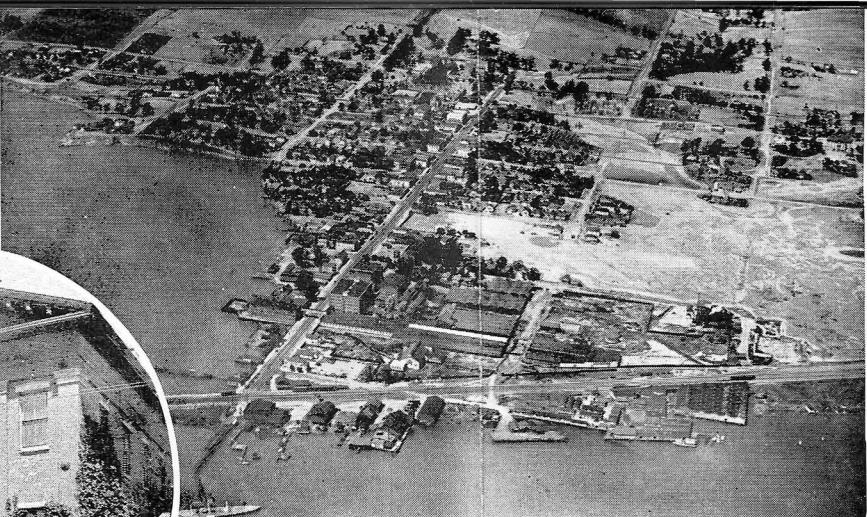
Transportation facilities are excellent, with Dixon on the main line of the Southern Pacific Company's Overland Route, two bus company lines, and highway freight transportation companies. By highway, it is only 22 miles from the capitol city of Sacramento, 45 miles from Vallejo, and 70 miles from San Francisco.

Here, too, is the scene of the annual Solano County Fair, which attracts visitors from all over northern California. It ranks as one of the outstanding County Fairs in California each year.

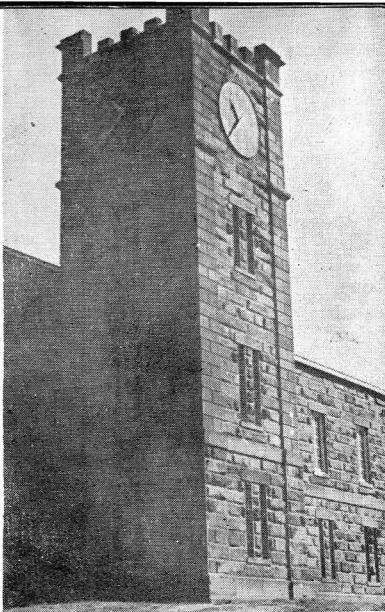
### *Dixon Fair Grounds, Where Annual District Fair Is Held*



*Former State  
Capitol Building*



*General View of Benicia*



*Benicia Arsenal  
Strong Outpost*

## BENICIA - On the Water

NO PROSAIC story is the history of Benicia, with romance interwoven in its pages . . . no idle hope is the conviction of its citizens that this city, so wisely laid out on the beautiful Carquinez Straits thirty miles northeast of San Francisco, will become a city of greater importance, many times larger and wealthier than it is today.

Its climate, one of the most equitable in the world, its calm waters and natural harbor facilities, and its gentle topography make it the logical place for the metropolis for which it was planned . . . and is destined.

Today the city, with its more than 3,000 inhabitants, an assessed valuation of \$2,000,000, a tax rate of \$1.72, has three principal industries; the important Yuba Manufacturing Company, which constructs mammoth placer dredges for a world-wide market; the Benicia Canning Company, and the United States Army Arsenal.

Benicia, which housed the California Legislature from 1853 to 1854, losing the State Capital to Sacramento by one vote, is a city of many "firsts." It has the first State Capitol building, first Catholic school in California, first

*Mighty Dredges Built Here*



Protestant church in the State, first Masonic Hall in California, one of the first military posts in the State, and here Mills College was founded as the Young Ladies Seminary in 1852.

Today, far from living in the past, Benicia is laying new plans for the future, the Vallejo-Benicia United Front movement making tremendous gains toward reviving Benicia's prosperity of old.

But always in the background is striking romance . . . the saddest and sweetest love-story of all time—the romance of Concepcion de Argeullo, and Count Rezanov . . . General Vallejo and his Indians; lusty days of the Gold Rush when Sutter's news leaked out in Von Pheister's well-known hostelry in Benicia instead of San Francisco, where it was supposed to have startled a waiting world . . . John C. Heenan, the battling "Benicia Boy," who rose from a humble beginning to move among the social great in England . . . tempestuous Jack London, who found ample material in Benicia while living in an old scow on the waterfront . . . the famous Many Mizners with Wilson Mizner chief genius . . . the gallant battles with Vallejo, and later Sacramento, for the State Capital . . .

*Canneries, Fisheries Thrive*

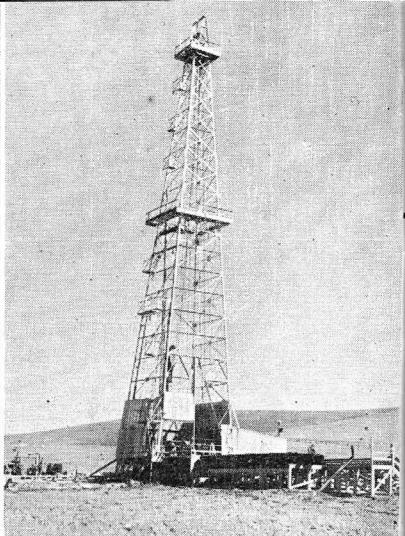




*Cutting Asparagus*



*World's Biggest Asparagus Plant*



*Typical Gas Well*

## - RIO VISTA - ASPARAGUS, FISHING AND OIL

SIGNIFICANT is the addition in the past year of a third means of livelihood for the river city of Rio Vista, halfway between Sacramento and San Francisco on the north bank of the Sacramento River . . . discovery of the largest natural gas field in California.

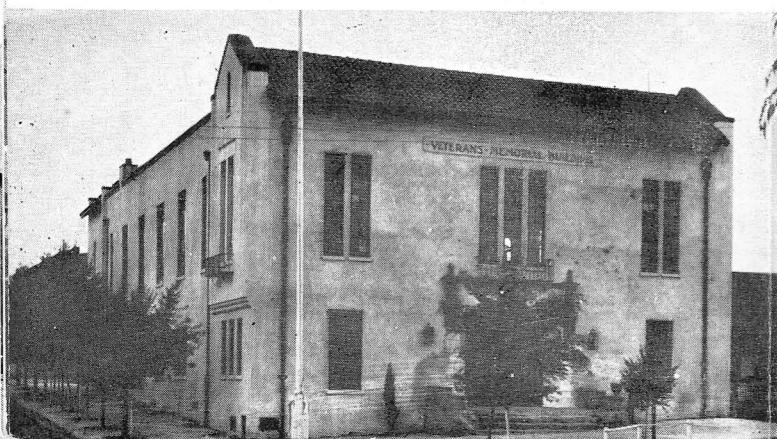
Up to this time, the city's progress has been sustained mainly by its productive grain and asparagus fields.

Already a familiar sight are the 19 towers, recently constructed, marking the first wells in the largest natural gas field in California. Any of these 19 wells is capable of supplying enough gas for the city of San Francisco.

And this may be only the beginning, for this zone alone embraces only three miles within a semicircular radius.

Approximately 6,000 to 7,000 acres have been proven in the field, with an underlying gas producing sand of

*Veterans' Memorial Hall*



maximum thickness of about 250 feet. The gas is known generally as "dry gas."

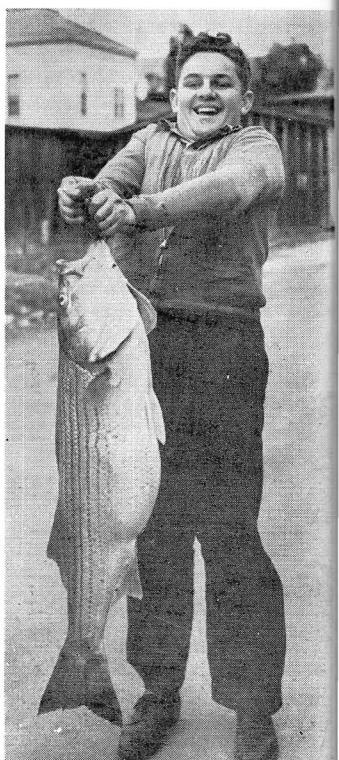
Plenty of land for prospective manufacturers, and a deep natural harbor which makes water transportation available for almost any kind of navigation, are Rio Vista's invitations to commerce. Another important connecting link with the outside world is the new highway, placing her on the main artery between Stockton and Fairfield, joining the two big highways, the Redwood and the Inland.

The city is well equipped for the new future it is confidently expecting . . . an excellent lighting system, good water, sewerage, splendid educational facilities, well paved streets, attractive homes, good schools, and efficient government.

Its largest output, grain, grows in abundance on the hill-sides, where also sheep and cattle graze, and across the river lie extensive asparagus fields. The Del Monte Cannery in Rio Vista is the biggest asparagus cannery in the world.

Here, too, sportsmen have found a bass fishing mecca, together with excellent hunting in the back country.

*Bass Fishing  
Excellent in  
This Region*





*Suisun's Main Street*

## - SUISUN -

### A CITY OF GREAT PROMISE

SUISUN, situated upon a navigable slough 50 water miles from San Francisco, is one of the most promising cities in Solano County . . . completion of the \$189,000 Suisun Channel project will give it one of northern California's best harbors.

This project will straighten the channel, eliminate dangerous curves, include a turning basin allowing large vessels to dock—and send Suisun booming onward.

For already contiguous to Suisun is famous Suisun Valley . . . more than 30,000 productive acres. Cattle and sheep ranges, grain farms, and a rich dairying country supply much of the wealth of the community, and several industries employ a large part of the population.

These include a grain shipping firm which last year shipped 3,000,000 packs of grain; the fourth largest builders of cabin cruisers in the State, with the Hunter Boat Company, which has a big payroll; the Southern Pacific yard, which has over a hundred on its payroll; the Hunt Canning Company, and the Sheldon Oil company. Known for its good duck shooting, hundreds of duck shooters are attracted annually and thousands of dollars have been invested in the development of the duck clubs.

The sloughs, channels and bays of Suisun are also famous for good fishing, the city being in close proximity to many well-stocked fresh water fish.

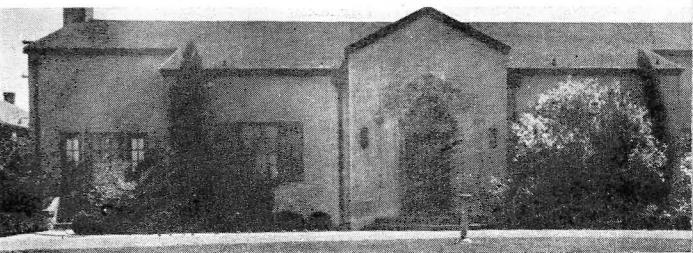
With a population of 1,200, assessed valuation of \$500,000, tax rate of \$2.40, Suisun has excellent schools, churches, owns its own water system, has two banks, expects a bright and thriving future.



*Suisun Community Hall, above  
Memorial Building, below*



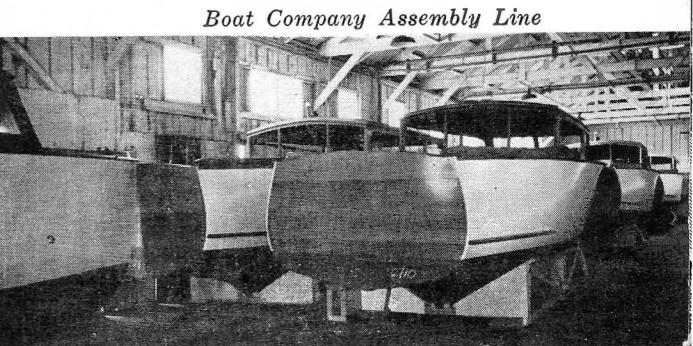
*Suisun Clubhouse*



*Grain Being Packaged*



*Suisun, Calif.*



*Boat Company Assembly Line*



## Your Invitation to Beautiful, Productive SOLANO COUNTY

IF YOU long for a land of prosperity, where you can build your home and raise your family in happiness . . . if you seek the riches of industry or agriculture, or history or beauty . . . excellent schools in which to educate your children, picturesque churches in which to offer your prayers . . . if you seek a chance to work or a chance to play, rich man or wanderer, you will find it all in Solano County . . . a County of vast orchards and countless acres of grain, gigantic industrial plants and great herds of livestock, quay walls of mighty warships and prairie lands no longer hiding their wealth in natural gas and oil . . . the breathless scenery of lakes and bays and rivers and channels, valleys and rolling hills . . . here awaits you a genuine welcome that gave the Old West its true greatness. For a day, or for a life time, this beautiful and productive land welcomes you.

